

**Eastern RI Conservation District  
PO Box 158 – Tiverton, RI 02878 – (401)-816-5667**

**ERICD Board Meeting  
February 10, 2015 7:00 pm  
At Sandywoods, 73 Muse Way, Tiverton, RI**

**I. Call to Order, Introductions:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Present were: Directors: Emerson Wildes (Chair), Suzanne Hourihan, Russ Smith; District Manager: Jessica Blackledge; NRCS: Melissa Hayden.

**II. Changes/ Additions to Agenda:** No changes or additions to the agenda were made.

**III. Minutes from January 20, 2015 Meeting:** Motion was made by Suzanne to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Russ and passed unanimously.

**IV. Reports:**

**A. NRCS** – Melissa provided a written NRCS activity report and provided training and information on NRCS's Watering Facility practice.

**B. Financials** – Financial reports were distributed to the Board via email in advance of the meeting and via hard copy at the meeting. Russ made a motion that the Board is in receipt of the financial reports. Motion was seconded by Suzanne and passed unanimously.

**C. RISCC** – Brief written report provided via email by Ramona LeBlanc in advance of this meeting. RI SCC did not meet in January. Next RI SCC meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2015 at NRCS 1st 10am.

**D. RIACD** – Emerson reported that the RIACD will support the Young Farmer Network by acting as a Fiscal Agent.

**E. District Manager** – DM provided a written report and provided highlights to the board.

**F. Directors**

- ~ Russ reminded ERICD that the Tiverton Library will be holding a workshop at Sandywoods on Harvesting Wild Mushrooms on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm (43 Muse Way Tiverton, RI).
- ~ Suzanne had nothing to report this month.
- ~ Emerson reported that he attended on the FSA Pesticide training and stated that he has organized his copies of the District papers.

**V. Old Business**

- A. Board Recruitment** – DM reported on conversations had with Nancy Wilson regarding her continued interest in pursuing Board Membership. Nancy will be traveling for the next month but should be back mid-March at which time she intends to submit her completed nomination forms.
- B. Cooperative Project with Sandywoods Farm** – Standing agenda item. DM reported that the Sandywoods Community Garden Co-op will have their monthly meeting on Sat., Feb. 14, 2015 at 11am.
- C. Proposed District Record Book** – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report and no discussion/action was taken this month.
- D. Proposed Grant Committee** – Standing agenda item. Nothing to report and no discussion/action was taken this month.
- E. Cooperative Projects with Roger Williams University** – DM further reported on the opportunity to partner with RWU Sustainability students. DM reported on current project ideas that were presented to students during the District presentations to RWU Sustainability 101 and 401 courses on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Project ideas presented to students included:
- Develop a success comparison study for the Sandywoods Farmers Market
  - Managing and Marketing the Sandywoods Farmers Market
  - Developing a Garden Education program for the YMCA Summer Camp held at Sandywoods.
  - Developing a strategic plan for management and operation of Sandywoods' High Tunnel.
  - Assist ERICD staff and volunteers with the Resident Canada Goose Education and Field Training project.
  - Develop a Resident Canada Goose Management Plan for RWU
  - Work with the District and beginning farmers to develop sustainable farms/businesses.
  - Work with District Board to develop a Strategic Plan for ERICD
  - Works with ERICD Board to develop and implement a Board Recruitment strategy/program.
- DM informed Board of the results of the presentations including students interested in working with Sandywoods on various projects. DM will continue to meet with Students and partners to develop these projects and partnerships.
- F. CTA Agreement Match Needs** – DM reported that she is still having difficulty making contact with Newport Water regarding their willingness to provide match monies to this agreement. Since FFOS planning is currently paused by the SCC, ERICD needs to find an alternate source of match. DM requested the Board provide her with any additional ideas they may have of match opportunities in the District to increase the chances of securing appropriate match monies for this agreement.

**G. Town Funding Requests** – DM reported that the Town Funding Request Letters went out at the end of January and provided the Board with copies of the Request Letter and a list of contacts to whom Request Letters were sent.

**VI. New Business**

**A. RI Land Trust Council Request** – DM reported that Rupert Friday with the RI Land Trust Council has requested co-sponsorship from ERICD for the Land Trust Council's yearly Farm Succession Planning Workshop. DM reported that there is no financial obligation with this co-sponsorship but that the Council is requesting assistance publicizing the event by sharing the event announcement with our farmers via email. A motion to co-sponsor was made by Suzanne and seconded by Russ. The motion passed unanimously. DM will forward event announcement to Board and other farmers and partners to help get the word out. DM also stated that it is important that and it would be ideal if someone attend the event to ensure an ERICD presence at any event we co-sponsor. Suzanne stated that she will try to attend.

**VIII. Adjourn** – Russ made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Suzanne and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

**Next Meeting: March 10, 2015 at 7PM at Sandywoods.**